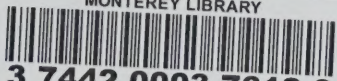


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MONTEREY NEWS



December, 1977

OUR TOWN



The Editorial Staff of the Monterey News is obliged to report a perplexity: in this most auspicious season of the year, there seems to be no news. No news at all. All is quiet in the Selectmen's Office. All is quiet in town. One thing can be said. Christmas is coming. We wondered what Monterey townspeople used to do in Christmases past. We asked around and came up with a real treasure, a little newspaper called the School Banner published by children attending grades One through Eight of the Center School in Monterey. Each page trimmed in holly leaves, the paper is filled with poetry, essays, and newsbits from December, 1898. One of the editors of this issue was Clara Gregory, later

Mrs. Arthur S. Barnum, mother of Mrs. Beatrice Phillips who graciously loaned us not only her copy of the School Banner but also an enlightening list of annotations. In the paper itself Clara's sister Mable contributed an elusive little concoction called "A Paraphrase" which combines themes from The Old Woman in the Shoe, Old Mother Hubbard and Hickory Dickory Dock. There is a detailed account of a year long trip to China by Josephine Tryon, sister of the late Delmor Tryon. Clinton Keyes, later to become Professor of Greek and Latin at Columbia University (and in addition to that the uncle of Bonner McAllester), wrote an astute piece on American History, Agnes Martin, sister of the late Mrs. Julia Welch of Beartown Mt. Road, wrote an essay on "The Duck" at the end of which she concludes, "There are two kinds of ducks, wild ducks and tame ducks."

There are advertisements from H. W. Langdon's store, Mr. Cambelle's butcher shop, and Kinne and Tryon's Bait Fish. Elmer Kinne was a great-uncle of Millie Walsh and Lena Pedersen. Albert Tryon was the father of Nina and Wallace Tryon.

Several of the children wrote on the theme of Christmas. There is a poem by Louise Bidwell, daughter of William Bidwell and first cousin to Margaret White, Helen Shaw and Gertrude Gould. Following is a rather poignant reminiscence by Perry Fargo, former selectman of Monterey, who lived where the Stefan Grotz family now lives. Despite his unsuccessful attempt to catch Santa, Perry later became well-known as a trapper and hunter.

I once hung up my stocking and got a drum, gun, and a sled with a lot of candy and nuts. I laid awake to catch Santa Claus but did not see him. Christmas Day we had a chicken pie. I ate so much candy that I was sick. The little children often try to catch Santa Claus but don't catch him very often. The little girls like dolls, carriages and other toys. I once saw a little girl drop a doll she got that morning and it broke all to pieces.

There is a poem on Santa Claus by Boulah Hyde, who later became Mrs. Jared Thomson, mother of Mrs. Marion Thomson. Three Rogers children, Ernie, Mabel and Ora, are represented, Ora being remembered now as Mrs. William Bruning. The date of publication for the School Banner is given adventitiously in the third verse of a poem by Ernie about "The Holidays:"

In just a week comes the New Year,
Which is always fresh and dear
Eighteen hundred and ninety-nine:
My! Won't that be fine!

Last of all, here is a short but irresistible verse by a boy named Willie Kelsey whose history is vague. Nina Tryon remembers his name but could tell us nothing more than that he did, in fact, exist.

O! Christmas Day has come!
O! Christmas Day is here!
How glad is the Bum,
Because he can have some beer!

Merry Christmas from Monterey, 1898.



CATHOLIC CHURCH

Immaculate Conception Church, Mill River -- Mass at 10 a.m. each Sunday.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Notes Morning Worship each Sunday at 10:30 a.m.
Kindergarten each Sunday at 10:30 a.m.
Grades 1 - 4 Wednesdays at 3:15 p.m.

Events of the Christmas Season

As the Christmas season approaches we should like all in the community to know of events that help us

share this time with friends and neighbors. As we develop a deeper sense of the common life to which we are called, we find the desire deepened to have events in which all can share.

Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 18, at 7:30 p.m. This is an opportunity, in a quiet manner, to reflect on the music and scriptures that lead us into the Christmas season. It is a time to regain your bearings, and under the influence of the special character of this season "true in" on your celebration of Christmas. A cordial welcome awaits all.

Community Carol Singing

Wednesday, December 18, at 6:30 p.m., we meet at the church, then go to the homes of sick and shut-in persons, bringing the message of Christmas. Coffee and cocoa to end the event. All young in heart persons are invited, regardless of age.

Children's Christmas Celebration

Friday, December 23, at 7:00 p.m. in the church sanctuary. Program by youth organizations and a Christmas film. Santa Claus will put in an appearance and see that all children up through the second grade receive gifts. Through the years this has been a widely celebrated Monterey event, drawing together the diverse strands of our community. A special effort is being made to acquaint newer people in the town with this event and be sure that all know they have an invitation to come and bring their children to this celebration that seeks to include all the children up through the second grade.

Christmas Eve at Gould Farm

Saturday, December 24, at 7:30 p.m., beginning at the Main House of Gould Farm, a Christmas Eve celebration. Although this is designed to provide a center of worship for those resident at the Farm, there is always a warm invitation for any in the community to share in this event. The service will conclude with a live nativity scene at the barn.

Christmas Day Worship

Sunday, December 25, at 10:30 a.m., worship in the Monterey Church. We invite any and all in our community to join in this morning worship that especially celebrates the event of Christ's coming to join the human family. There will be a service of baptism around which the Christmas celebration will be joined. The Christmas meditation will be based on the question asked in a carol, "What Child Is This?"

The Christmas party for Monterey children is financed by gifts of townspeople who want to share. If you want to help, please tear off and mail the coupon below to Barbara Gauthier.

Mrs. Barbara Gauthier
Monterey

Dear Barbara,

Yes, I want to help Santa bring Christmas gifts to the children at the Monterey Children's Christmas Celebration.

Enclosed is \$_____ to help Santa do his thing.

New children you should know about

Addresses

Your Name

Address

THE FAILURE OF MODERN ART

Albert Schweitzer, musician and theologian, in his "Philosophy's Guilt for the Downfall of Culture" sums up the cultural situation as follows: "It is obvious to everybody that we are in a process of cultural self-destruction...The cultural capacity of modern man is diminished because the circumstances which surround him diminish him and damage him psychically."

If, therefore, the artist's available "creative space" is not filled by higher motivations, then it will be necessarily filled by something lower. In spite of today's enormous quantitative artistic activity, there is little room for great ideas. Living in an essentially technological society, the mechanical takes the place of the human, beauty has become distortion and substance has made room for experimentation with form and shapes.

Even Picasso, who himself has taken great liberties with his figurative work, was shocked that mere abstract forms would be considered meaningful art. In music, only recently, composer Gunther Schuller questioned the artistic value of atonal sounds. In the dance, noted critic Clive Barnes of the New York Times lately has been critical of the lack of harmony and grace, the very essence of the dance, in much of modern choreography. Senior art critic John Canaday of the New York Times said in an interview that he wished he hadn't written some of his more enthusiastic reviews about modern paintings after having reread them years later. And in literature, French author Julien Benda in his book La Trahison Des Clercs took writers to task for writing too many books without much substance and literary merit.

There is then, due to the disorganization of much of our intellectual and emotional life, in many modern works, a shallowness and vagueness I'd like to illustrate with just two examples. At an art foundry, I observed a sculptor working on a copy of his own bronze cast, unable to remember in which sequence three similar pieces belonged together. When the fellow who had done the original cast was called, he pointed out some tiny marks he had made underneath each part of the first plaster cast. Only then could this untitled work be put together. During a studio visit to another sculptor, I saw a construction which, he told me, had been titled originally, "A Cannon"; but after a visit from a lady who called it a charming rooster, the piece went to an exhibit under the title "A Rooster."

Likewise, there are in all the arts today works with contrived titles with no special meaning; sometimes they are only numbered or titled, "Untitled." Such art can, at best, be enjoyed intellectually and aesthetically. But due to a lack of emotional and spiritual content, our inner response must necessarily be limited.

Looking then at our society as a whole, one realizes that just as there took place a lowering of standards in the corporate world, in politics, in certain religious endeavors, even in our language--our most common means of expression--so do we have a lowering of standards in the concept of art. Up to the end of the 19th century, art was our most enriching and ennobling experience. In that sense alone, modern art is a total failure. However, as to arousing speculation in its audience as to what, if anything, its originator meant, it is a total success.

Having read sometime ago in Saturday Review Katherine Kuh's comment about the awesome beauty and spiritual depth of ancient Greek sculpture, I doubt that mankind, if still around in another 2,000 years, will consider 20th century art equally lasting and respond to it as deeply. I rather believe that it would be looked upon as merely a strange phenomenon of its time.

Fred Lancome, Monterey

ANNUNCIATION (The Angel's Words to Mary)

You are not closer to God than we,
You are far as all the rest;
Yet marvellously, wondrously,
Your praying hands are blessed.
No other woman has, like you,
Hands raised so shimmeringly.
I am the day, I am the dew,
But you are the branching tree.

I spread my mighty wings apart
And plummeted straight down;
Now overflows your house and hearth
With my great billowing gown.

And yet, my dear, you're all alone
And scarcely glance at me.
So I am just the wind's low moan
But you are the branching tree.

The angels all are mourning so,
Leaving each other alone:
Never was their longing so,
So vague, yet so full-blown.
Perhaps you soon will grasp in dream
That something happened here.
I greet you, Mary, my soul sees
You're ready, without fear.
You are a high and towering gate
That soon will open wide.
Now I know my words have met
With knowledge from your side.

So I came and reminded you
Of things you dared not see.

God looked at me: he blinded me.

But you are the branching tree.

Adapted from Rainer Maria Rilke's "Verkündigung" by Patricia Howard.

WHAT'S ALL THIS TALK ABOUT A NEW AGE?

With increasing frequency I hear people speak of a new age coming. What kind of talk is this anyway? What is the basis for new age thinking?

This is a good season to ask about the possibility of a new age. Indeed, the heart of the Christmas message is that a new age appeared out of the birth of Jesus. Did that new age appear? In fact, what about the whole idea that the earth passes through different ages.

Many eyes have no capacity to see the world in terms of a new age. It is possible to look at the world and declare, "There is nothing new under the sun." It is the same old story of human selfishness played over and over again -- only with variations on the theme. Those who can see no new ages, no significant movement, are almost always pessimistic. We are trapped in the wheel of life. With every turn of the wheel it keeps squeaking out the refrain, "There is no change. There is no hope."

Now let us try seeing world history as an unfolding drama. Indeed, old themes do restate themselves. Yet sometimes the variations in theme become so dramatic as to declare that something new is happening.

Within our Western history let us recognize several of the epochs that may be seen as different ages. Figure it any way we will, the time before Moses and the time after Moses come to us as different ages. What makes them different? It is as though a shift in the conception of law and justice took place with Moses such as to make him a dividing point in history. Before Moses there was little standard for justice, no code by which men and women regulated their conduct toward each other. It might even have been seen as a lawless period in which each person was largely a law unto himself.

With Moses began that great attempt to find a common standard by which fairness and justice could be recognized from one person to another and from one people to another. So decisive and so sweeping was this movement that all of Western civilization owes a deep debt to Moses. The influence of Moses spread vastly further than the Jewish people, entering the life-stream of all humanity, making its deepest imprint especially in the West.

The cynical observer may look at our world and say, "Moses failed. Look how far we still are from any common standard of justice." Yes, there are rankling injustices whichever way we turn. The dream envisioned by Moses is far from complete. Yet who will dare say that Moses failed? Try imagining civilization without the influence of a Moses and we begin to get a picture of the new age that began with him.

What was begun with Moses is not complete, even yet, but that did not stop another new age from beginning two thousand years ago with Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus identified himself solidly with Moses, saying that he had not come to destroy the law and the prophets but to fulfill them. Yet the vital seed produced by the life and work of Jesus began the unfailing movement of another new age. His love of life and the quality of grace that emanated from him began to produce a new quality in life. It brought a new equation into human character. Yes, the work that Moses began is not done and the work that Jesus began is so very far from completed. Indeed, the intention of Jesus for the human family is so incomplete that it is not strange for people on every side to declare, "Jesus failed."

When Jesus began his ministry he announced, "The Kingdom of God is in your midst." Yet by the time he finished his earthly ministry a few years later, it looked as if the old age were still firmly entrenched. Jesus' death was clearly a sign of resistance to the new age he came to proclaim. How far we are still from fully realizing the potentials of the kingdom Jesus proclaimed. There are vast gaps remaining between his vision and our reality. Yet when we consider the slow but steady revolution in human affairs that has been taking place over the last two thousand years, would any of us really have the nerve to declare, "Jesus failed."

Now what about this persistent talk of another new age? Do we imagine that an old age must be completely fulfilled before a new one begins? The evidence points the other way. How far we have yet to go to fill in the movement toward justice started by Moses. Jesus started a revolution, the end of which we cannot even imagine.

Imagine we are in the beginning stages of a new age. What might it be like? Can we guess at its outlines? If we were to gather hints from grass-roots movements, surely this new age has something to do with a rapidly moving shift in human consciousness. Within the last ten years there has been a veritable explosion of hints, intimations, suggestions, yes, and evidences that powers of "knowing" and "being" are present in all persons vastly beyond their recognition and imagination.

Science and religion are moving toward a convergence in "seeing." The more we probe the mysterious hidden realms of our humanity, the vaster and more awesome are the dimensions we find. From all our disciplines come hints of the "more" that lies beyond what we can see.

Don't expect a new age that will suddenly leap beyond Moses and Jesus. But don't be surprised if new understandings about our humanity enable us to go deeper into justice and love than we have ever gone before. That is a new age we could welcome with open arms. Truly, this is a good season to meditate on the possibility and the meaning of a new age.

Virgil V. Brallier, Minister
Monterey United Church of Christ

4-H NEWS



The annual 4-H Fair Awards and Honor Banquet was held on Saturday, November 19, at the Stanley Club in Pittsfield. Those attending from Monterey were Mark Makuc, Sean Ryder, Mr. and Mrs. John Ryder, Christine and Kenny Heath and Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Heath. Mark Makuc received a county medal in Gardening. Sean received county medals in Photography, Crafts and Agriculture. Kenny received a medal in Swine. Christine received medals in Citizenship and Gardening. Christine also received the 4-H Key Award for outstanding 4-H work. The guest speaker was Dr. John Dennison, Director of Stockbridge School of Agriculture, University of Mass.

Monterey Roadrunners 4-H Horse Club: The first meeting was held November 8. There was an election of officers. They are as follows: President: Kris Heath; Vice President: Chris Papp; Secretary: Chris Papp; Treasurer: Jim Gauthier. At the second meeting the members learned the parts of a saddle and bridle, as well as how to clean them in the proper way.

The last meeting was on December 13. No details are available at the present writing.

The Small Engine Club meets bi-weekly in the church basement.

BOY SCOUTS

The Cubs planted spring bulbs in front of the Monterey Library. They have been making tree ornaments out of cookie dough and have started work on a knot board. Shields made at the last pack meeting have been and will be on display in the library. Weather permitting, the boys plan to collect greens for Christmas decorations.

The Webeles will begin work on their Aquanaut Badge under the instruction of Maryellen Brown. Mrs. Linda Hebert has offered their heated swimming pool for the project.

GIRL SCOUTS

The Junior scouts have been making felt Christmas decorations to be taken to the Pines Nursing Home, at which time the girls will entertain nursing home residents with Christmas carols.

The Seniors earned \$68 at their last bake sale and are planning other projects which will help finance their trip to Washington, D.C.

MONTEREY YOUTH GROUP

The Monterey Youth Group wrote its own news this week. Here is its collective message:

It's funny. It's wild. It's an Alright Group. Join!
I like it because I learn and have fun at the same time.
We get to eat!
I like it a lot because my friends are in it and we don't get graded on it. We get to eat. Fun.
its fun I like it its Enjoyable.
I like it because I can be with my friends.
Try it you'll like it. Youth is Fun.
It is a fun way to learn things about each other.
Do It. There's no report cards speling don't count.
You learn and still have fun.
its Delicious its Great its Far Out its Crazy its Fun

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Town Christmas Party will be held Friday, December 23, in the church social room at 7:00 p.m. All children of Monterey are invited. A movie will be shown and gifts will be distributed to children up to and including second grade.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We are overwhelmingly grateful for the overwhelming response we have received to our annual appeal. Since last month and through December 10 we have received contributions from the following: Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Amidon, Mr. & Mrs. Donald Amstead, Jr., Drs. David & Jean Balderston, Mark & Gerald Bauman & Families, The Berkshire Eagle, Col. Lawrence Bolvig, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Bradley, Mr. George Brett, Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Bronstein, Mr. & Mrs. Sigmund Bronstein, Dr. & Mrs. Edward Brown, Mrs. Florence Brown & Mrs. Alice Burhans, Mr. & Mrs. Peter Brown, Col. & Mrs. Staunton Brown, Mr. & Mrs. Philip Buchanan, Mr. & Mrs. Jan Buchar, Mr. & Mrs. Howard Buffym, Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Burk, Mr. & Mrs. Claude Burke, Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Butler, Mrs. Brian Callahan, Mr. & Mrs. Warren Candee, Dr. & Mrs. James Cattell, Mrs. Thomas Chamberlain, Rev. James Chase, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Chromow, Dr. Marion Clark, Mrs. R. R. Cobian, Mrs. Fred Cummings, Drs. Hugo & Alice De Martino, The Dodyk Family, Hon. Robert Donelan, Jean Dunning, Dr. Alfred Emmel, Mr. & Mrs. Rudolph Erda, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Gauthier, Mr. & Mrs. Morton Goodman, Ruth Gordor, Mr. & Mrs. Harry Gottlieb, Miss Rosemary Farrar, Mr. & Mrs. John Fijux, Mr. & Mrs. Jerome Germain, Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Gildesgame, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Gillis, Mr. & Mrs. Irv Halstead, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hoogs, Mr. John Jefferson, Mrs. Irene Konny & Mrs. Helen Hanley, Mr. Harold Hart, Hazel Heath, Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Heath, Donna Hutchins, Mrs. Kelly Janes, Patty Jayson, Mr. Bjorn Jenssen, Mr. Scott Jenssen, Mr. & Mrs. Roy Kahn, Mr. & Mrs. Howard Kalodner, Mr. & Mrs. Ervin Kern, Mr. & Mrs. Martin Killeen, Mr. & Mrs. Claude Kimberley, Dr. & Mrs. Morris Kirschner, Mr. George Kisselbrock, Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Kleban, Melvin Kraft, Dorothy LaMudge, Lin Lathrop, Mrs. Paul Leidhold, Mrs. Lawrence Lippert, Mr. Jed Lipsky, Mr. & Mrs. David Lowman, Mrs. John MacIver, Mr. & Mrs. David McAllester, Mr. & Mrs. Everett McCue, Loul McIntosh, Janet McKee, Marjorie McLaughlin, Mrs. Mary Marchman, Mr. & Mrs. Martin Mellon, Dr. & Mrs. Sol Melnick, Mr. George Mensi, Mrs. Herbert Messenger, Mimi Meyers, Mr. & Mrs. John Perry Miller, Mr. & Mrs. Ed Morris, Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Morse, Mr. & Mrs. Donald Mott, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Niedzinski, Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Nightingale, Mr. & Mrs. Charles O'Connor, Dr. & Mrs. William Oislander, Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Olds, Mr. & Mrs. Curtis Paine, Debbie Patton, Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Pearl, Mr. & Mrs. Mortimer Pearl, Miss Harriet Phillips, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Porter, Rev. & Mrs. Hampton Price, Dr. & Mrs. Karl Quisenberry, Mr. & Mrs. David Raycroft, Mr. & Mrs. E. Rigali, Mrs. Gayle Rochfeld, Mr. Morris Roseman, Mr. & Mrs. A.J. Rosenstein, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Rotondo, Mr. & Mrs. John Ryder, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Schlegel, Dr. & Mrs. Howard Schomer, Mr. & Mrs. Leo Schreiber, Mr. Peter Schweitzer, Mr. & Mrs. Amiel Segal (sorry -- belated acknowledgment), Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Sellers, Mr. & Mrs. Sam Semaya, Drs. Jack & Belle Sharefkin, Mr. & Mrs. Hugo Shubert, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Sidman, Dr. & Mrs. Herbert Silberner, Mr. & Mrs. Hadley Simons, Mr. Leonard Simmons, Mr. & Mrs. Kent Smith, Ruth Hays Smith, Anita Swanson, Mr. Ernest Taylor, Mr. & Mrs. Peter Vallianos, Mrs. Mary Wallace, Mrs. Lawrence Wilkinson, Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Kyle Wing, Jr., Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Kyle Wing III, Mrs. Martin Wing, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Wocel, Mr. Peter Wolf, Hildegard Wolff and Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Wondrasch.

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